

Message Text

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53

ACTION EA-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 4072

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS,ID

SUBJECT: STATUS OF R.I. SAMADIKUN AND FOLLOW-ON DE'S

REFS: A. HEAVNER TO TOUSSAINT O-I LTR OF 3/6/74 (NOTAL)

B. USDAO JAKARTA 100724Z DEC 73

1. SHORTLY PRIOR RECEIPT REF A, CHIEF, USDLG AND HEAD OF DLG NAVAL SECTION CONDUCTED INSPECTION OF SAMADIKUN FEB 28 AND FOUND A MARKED IMPROVEMENT IN SHIP'S MATERIAL CONDITION OVER EARLIER OBSERVATIONS (REF B). SHIP'S OVER-ALL CONDITION EXCELLENT WITH EXTERNAL PRESEVATION POSSIBLY EVEN IMPROVED SINCE TRANSFER FROM U.S. A YEAR AGO. PROPER ATTENTION TO EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE IN EVIDENCE AND CREW DISPLAYED PRIDE AND CONFIDENCE IN SHIP.

2. AT TIME OF INSPECTION, SAMADIKUN HAD JUST RETURNED FROM SIX WEEKS AT-SEA OPERATIONS IN THE WESTERN INDONESIAN OPERATING AREAS AND REPORTEDLY HAD PERFORMED WITH ONLY MINOR GYRO COMPASS FAILURE, WHICH HAD BEEN CORRECTED. REVIEW OF PAST YEAR'S OPERATING SCHEDULE REVEALED SAMADIKUN HAS BEEN HEAVILY EMPLOYED WITH OVER 70 PERCENT

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OF LAST TWELVE MONTHS SPENT AT SEA. IT RECENTLY ESCORTED

BRITANNIA THROUGHOUT INDONESIAN WATERS DURING BRITISH ROYAL FAMILY'S VISIT TO INDONESIA.

3. ESTIMATED 10 PERCENT DETERIORATION IN SAMADIKUN'S OPERATIONAL CONDITION IN FIRST FEW MONTHS AFTER TRANSFER (REF B) WAS NOT ENTIRELY UNUSUAL OR UNEXPECTED; SUCH DETERIORATION OFTEN ACCOMPANIES ACCEPTANCE OF NEW CLASS OF SHIP UNTIL RECEIVING NAVY BECOMES FAMILIAR WITH INSTALLED SYSTEMS AND ATTAINS NEW OPERATIONAL AND MAINTENANCE SKILLS.

4. WITH OVER ONE YEAR'S EXPERIENCE UNDER BELT, INDONESIAN NAVY SEEMS CONFIDENT THEY CAN MAINTAIN IMPROVED PERFORMANCE OF SAMADIKUN. AS LONG AS ARMADA COMMANDER MAINTAINS CLOSE INTEREST IN SHIP AND CONTINUES TO REQUIRE FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN MAN HOURS BEING WORKED BY CREW, MISSION THINKS THIS CONFIDENCE IS JUSTIFIED.

5. INITIAL DETERIORATION IN OPERATIONAL CONDITION EXPERIENCED IN SAMADIKUN IS EXPECTED TO BE LESS IN THE OTHER THREE DE'S BECAUSE INDONESIANS NOW HAVE SOME EXPERIENCE WITH THE CLASS OF SHIP. WITH AMPLE SPARE PARTS NOW ARRIVING IN COUNTRY AND UPON COMPLETION OF CONUS TECHNICAL TRAINING (PARA 6), MISSION REASONABLY CONFIDENT THAT INDONESIAN NAVY WILL NOT ONLY MAINTAIN THESE SHIPS PROPERLY BUT WILL BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT IN DOING SO IN REASONABLY SHORT PERIOD.

6. INDONESIAN NAVY HAS A KNOWN DEFICIENCY IN HIGHLY TECHNICAL SKILLS SUCH AS ELECTRONICS, SONAR AND NEWLY ACQUIRED MK 44 TORPEDOES. THIS STEMS FROM LACK OF FORMAL TRAINING AND THEIR EXPERIENCE WITH ONLY LESS SOPHISTICATED ELECTRONICS, SONAR AND TORPEDO SYSTEMS. OTHER TECHNICAL AND OPERATIONAL ORIENTED SKILLS ARE CONSIDERED GOOD AND FULLY CAPABLE OF MAINTAINING DE'S. IN ORDER TO OVERCOME THESE KNOWN DEFICIENCIES, CONCENTRATED FORMAL CONUS TRAINING IS SCHEDULED; IN FACT, TWO PERSONNEL HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM 35 WEEKS MK 44 TORPEDO TRAINING AND TWELVE PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS ARE PRESENTLY UNDERGOING INTENSIVE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING IN PREPARATION FOR

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FORMAL CONUS SCHOOLING IN THESE FIELDS. A U.S. NAVY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TEAM IS PROGRAMMED IN COUNTRY FOR ABOUT THREE MONTHS IN MID-74 TO ASSIST IN ONBOARD TRAINING IN THESE SKILLS FOR FIRST TWO DE'S THEN IN COUNTRY AND TO PROVIDE ADVANCE FAMILIARIZATION TRAINING FOR CREWS OF LAT TWO DE'S SCHEDULED FOR TRANSFER IN DECEMBER 1974.

NEWSOM

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